NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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JUL 17 1968
MEDICAL LIBRARY

NLM Honors Senator Hill

As the son of a physician, Lister Hill became aware of the continual need for progress and renewal in the biomedical field. In promoting and achieving these ends, he had an essential role as the imaginative leader. He is a unique exemplar of the highest type of legislator who translates ideas and ideals into vital action.

This Library is the physical and functional embodiment of his broad views and effective action. Scholarship and research have been nurtured at the same time that advances in medicine became more readily available for improving the health of the citizen. His earlier visions are realized in the Library. His visions of the future are our own blueprints for development, expansion, and change.

The National Library of Medicine joins the many individual beneficiaries and organizations in our expression of heartfelt gratitude to Lister Hill.

The Library's Board of Regents and staff members assembled to pay tribute on June 20, 1968, to Senator Lister Hill, who is retiring after more than 40 years of public service. Among the guests were Alabama's Junior Senator, John Sparkman, who served with Mr. Hill in the Senate for more than 20 years; U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Secretary Wilbur J. Cohen; Worth B. Daniels, M.D., first chairman of the Presidentially appointed Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine and Mr. Hill's personal physician; colleagues from both Houses of the Congress; officials of HEW; and many other friends from the biomedical community.

Secretary Cohen told the audience of over 150 that "the nation owes him a debt of gratitude for his great long-range vision of America's well-being. Millions of Americans are better off today, but millions will be better off tomorrow and in years to come because of the work Senator Hill has done." The Secretary concluded, "We pledge to you, Senator Hill, that we shall not forget your monumental good works, and those of us who go on will continue to fight to preserve those programs that you have created, but more so, to build on to them with the same unrelenting and unswerving support that you have given."

CENTER FOR BIOMEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS

Senator Sparkman, in the featured address, responded to Secretary Cohen's pledge and proposed that the Library's planned new annex be designated the

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Lister Hill Center for Biomedical Communications, "to perpetuate the name of the man who has done so much for the health of the nation, who has exhibited an abiding concern for and interest in libraries in general and the NLM in particular." Such a Center, Senator Sparkman elaborated, "would ensure the concentration of industrial, university, and Federal resources on those areas of information transfer of highest benefit to the biomedical community and the people of this country. Television, satellites, films, lasers, computers, all these and more, could be applied to those problems of medicine dependent upon communication."

William Bean, M.D., speaking on behalf of the Board of Regents, presented the Senator with a hand-lettered scroll citing Mr. Hill's legislative accomplishments and paying him homage. Dr. Bean noted that "Senator Hill's visions are realized in the Library, which is the physical and functional embodiment of his broad views and effective action." Dr. Bean said, "Scholarship and research have been nurtured (at NLM) at the same time that advances in medicine became more readily available for improving the health of the nation." Regents Chairman Barnes Woodhall, M.D., endorsed Senator Sparkman's proposal for creating the Lister Hill Center for Biomedical Communications. He stated, "What better way to link in perpetuity the name of Lister Hill with the sciences he did so much to further...future generations of Americans will know through the work of this Center of the man who was known as the *Statesman of Health*."

LAW AND MEDICINE EXHIBIT

The Senator and his guests previewed a new Library exhibit on Law and Medicine (*News*, June 1968) which was also dedicated to Senator Hill. One section of the exhibit is devoted to the chronology of significant medical legislation featuring the accomplishments of Senator Hill. On display are awards, certificates, and other testimonials to Senator Hill's tireless promotion of health-related legislation for the American people.

Grant Made to School of Optometry

The Southern College of Optometry, Memphis, Tennessee, has received a grant of $176,525 to aid in the construction of a library. The grant, awarded under the Construction Grant Program (authorized by the Medical Library Assistance Act and administered by NLM's Extramural Programs), covers 75% of the total construction costs. The library will be in a new 13-story teaching and research facility and house about 20,000 items, with seating for 125 readers.

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SPECIAL PROGRAM REPORT Bethesda, Maryland 20014 July 1968

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
JUL 17 1968
MEDICAL LIBRARY

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

by Mary E. Corning
Special Assistant to the Director

In 1886, Dr. John Shaw Billings said, "The influence of the Library in stimulating research, and upon the quality of medical literature, is already very perceptible. . .the utility. . .of the library, is by no means confined to the medical profession of the United States, for the catalogues and indices, which are being issued. . .are of service to medical writers and teachers all over the world."

From 1886 to the present, this unilateral international interest in National Library of Medicine publications has evolved into active cooperative efforts in biomedical communications, both project level and more broadly-based institutional programs. These programs are consistent with the stated objectives of the National Library of Medicine Act of 1956 and the President's National Policy Statement on International Book and Library Activities issued in 1967.

Functionally, current international activities of the Library include: the traditional acquisition, exchange and service functions; an agreement with the Agency for International Development for provision of specialized services; Public Law 480 programs in abstracting, indexing, translating and critical reviews; cooperative projects involving the computer-based information storage and retrieval system (MEDLARS); and the development of institutional relationships in the broad and fundamental aspects of biomedical communications.

Geographically, the international activities of the Library are widespread: the United Kingdom; Sweden; Japan; Poland; Yugoslavia; Israel; India; South America through the Pan American Health Organization; Mexico and potential programs in Australia and Canada. We are also developing programs with the World Health Organization and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The normal functions of the Library in acquiring and exchanging materials, and providing services, include a significant international component. The Library has some 700 exchange partners in 70 countries. Under a special agreement with the Agency for International Development (AID), the Library is able to provide services to AID Washington staff, AID Mission staff, and biomedical institutions and scientists in developing countries. These services may be subscriptions to NLM publications, interlibrary loans, answering reference inquiries and MEDLARS demand searches.

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Three of our international activities selected for description here represent cooperative efforts with our Latin American colleagues: the Pan American Health Organization, the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory in Central America, and the Ministry of Health in Mexico. Each of these programs has developed in a specific way in response to demonstrated needs. They are at various levels of development and may use different mechanisms, but the ultimate objective is improved biomedical communications to advance medical research, education and practice.

Regional Medical Library for South America (RML)

In 1965, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) studied biomedical communications in South America, using the National Library of Medicine in a technical and advisory capacity. There were meetings of experts concerned with problems of Latin American medical education, biomedical research, and international health, and a consultant team examined South American medical libraries. The conclusion reached by these groups was that Latin American medical libraries had not kept pace with the needs of biomedical researchers, educators, students and practitioners, and that the problem should receive immediate attention on a regional basis.

The PAHO Advisory Committee on Medical Research recommended the establishment of a Regional Medical Library in South America under the joint sponsorship of PAHO and the Pan American Federation of Associations of Medical Schools, with technical backstopping by the National Library of Medicine. The site selected for the Library was the Escola Paulista de Medicina, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Multiple cooperation exists for this project. PAHO has organizational and administrative responsibility for the RML which provides it with international status. Funds are being provided by the Ministries of Health and Education in Brazil, the Pan American Health Organization, the Commonwealth Fund, and also by the National Library of Medicine under the President's National Policy Statement on International Book and Library Activities. Staff and buildings have been made available by the Escola Paulista. National Library of Medicine excess credit rights at the U.S. Book Exchange are being used by the Center to build a core collection.

Currently, PAHO is naming the Scientific Advisory Committee for the RML and its first meeting will be held within several months. PAHO is recruiting for a Director, the collection is being enlarged in scope and coverage, training needs of current staff are being identified, and an assessment is being made of present resources projected against the current and potential functions and goals of the RML. Once the collection has reached adequate strength, services in the form of handling reference questions, performing bibliographic searches, and providing interlibrary loans will begin. Cooperative programs with other libraries will be developed to eliminate duplication of effort and to draw on each others resources.

Potentially, the RML will (1) become an institutional base on which to build, (2) strengthen local institutions in the various countries, (3) provide medical information through the use of modern methods to scientists, educators and practitioners in the health fields, and (4) provide a unique opportunity for training librarians and information specialists.

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Proposed Regional Medical Library for Central America

In 1965, following discussions in Panama with officials of the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory, the Pan American Health Organization, and the Government of Panama, the Director of the National Library of Medicine was invited to discuss the concept of the development of a Regional Medical Library with the Ministers of Health of Central America. The reception to the concept was highly favorable.

Follow-up actions in Panama have been principally concerned with acquisition of land to construct a building for the establishment of the Regional Medical Library in Panama for Central America. The site is in the process of being acquired by the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory. Detailed plans for the physical plant, collection, staff, and services have yet to be developed. In the interim, the National Library of Medicine has been assisting the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory in the strengthening of its collection through our sending directly duplicate books, journals and through the use of our excess credits at the U.S. Book Exchange.

Mexican National Center for Medical Bibliographic Information

In 1967, the Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service indicated his willingness to assist the Ministry of Health and Welfare in Mexico in its establishment of a central focus for medical library development and liaison with the National Library of Medicine. Subsequent discussions between the Minister of Health and Welfare and the Director of the National Library of Medicine have led to the Ministry taking steps to create a National Center for Medical Bibliographic Information, with the cooperation of their National Academy of Medicine, the Social Security Institute, and the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

The Ministry of Health is establishing the initial nucleus, which will be housed in the National Academy of Medicine, with library and documentation back-up provided by the Social Security Institute and the National Autonomous University. The National Library of Medicine agreed to respond to requests for material or information not available in Mexico and to provide specialized training for staff. Dr. Luis Marcial, Office of the Undersecretary of Health, has been identified as the Director of the new Center; and he has just completed a comprehensive and broad training program at the National Library of Medicine. Training will subsequently be given for an individual to become a MEDLARS Search Specialist so that requests for computerized bibliographic and reference services may be formulated at the Mexican Center with the search and response provided by the National Library of Medicine.

The initial plan in Mexico is for an information referral center and clearinghouse but the ultimate goal is an organizational entity resembling a national library of medicine.

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These U.S./Latin cooperative activities in biomedical communications are in the developmental stages. They represent an approach which is regional, but one where the interdependency rests on a "service network" rather than on formal organizational or physical networks.

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The programs are planned in successive stages with basic steps being taken first in terms of training people, strengthening resource collections, initiating services in response to demonstrated needs, and stimulating in general an increased awareness of the utility of these resources. When appropriate and timely, advanced technologies can and will be introduced. These programs are not simply a transplantation of what now exists in the U.S. to another locality. Full participation of our foreign colleagues in the development of a truly cooperative effort is required and is now available.

* * * *

Tribute to Senator Hill

Secretary Cohen and Senator Hill

Senator Sparkman

Dr. Philip R. Lee, DHEW Assistant Secretary for Health and Scientific Affairs

Dr. Bean

(from left) Secretary Cohen, Dr. Cummings, Dr. Woodhall, Senator Hill, Dr. Daniels

Photos by Ralph Fernandez.

Details on New Regional Medical Libraries

More specific information is now available on the Regional Medical Library grants announced in the June *News*. The Library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia has been awarded a $199,120* grant to provide expanded services, beginning July 1, 1968, to health professionals in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and southern New Jersey. It will be designated as the Mid-Eastern Regional Medical Library.

The Health Sciences Library of the University of Washington, Seattle, received a grant of $124,040* to serve as the Pacific Northwest Regional Medical Library, making biomedical information more readily available to health professionals in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana.

Both libraries will offer interlibrary loan and photocopying services, and provide formulation of demand searches to obtain bibliographies for individual requesters from MEDLARS (NLM's computerized Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System).

Renewal of the grant to the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, Boston (serving the New England states) provides $254,733* for continuation and expansion of its Regional Medical Library services. (Countway was the first library to be funded as a Regional Medical Library, effective October 1, 1967.)

Regional Medical Library grants are awarded by NLM's Extramural Programs under authority of the Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965.

*Direct costs only

Call Issued for International Congress Papers

A general call has been issued for "free communications," or unsolicited papers, for the III International Congress of Medical Librarianship, to be held May 5-9, 1969, in Amsterdam (*News*, May 1968). The overall theme of the Congress is "World Progress in Medical Librarianship." Papers may be from 2,000 to 2,500 words long and may be submitted in English, French, German, Russian, or Spanish; each must be accompanied by an abstract, no longer than 50 words, in English, and (where needed) a title in English.

October 15, 1968 is the deadline for submission of papers to: III International Congress of Medical Librarianship, Office of the Secretary-General, Excerpta Medica Foundation, 119, Herengracht, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

* * *

Mr. Huly E. Bray has been named Chief, Office of Public Information and Publications Management, following his recent retirement after 30 years in the Air Force. Mr. Bray succeeds Mr. Gerald N. Kurtz, who left the Library on June 30 to head the Office of Communications, National Institute of Mental Health.

Miss May G. Hardy, History of Medicine Division, retired from Government service on June 30. She came to NLM in 1954 from the Library of Congress.